

Expect More.

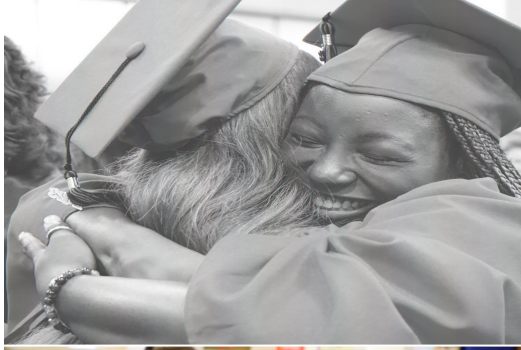
Achievement Update
2025-2026

Presented to the school board
Oct. 13, 2026

Part 1 | Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness

District goals, progress and improvement strategies

Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness (CACR)







Legislation designed to ensure schools enhance student achievement through teaching and learning supports:

- All students are ready for school
- All racial and economic achievement gaps are closed
- All students are ready for career and college
- All students graduate from high school
- Students are prepared to be lifelong learners







#1: School Readiness

Target:

Increase the percentage of incoming kindergarteners meeting age-appropriate literacy and numeracy benchmarks as measured on fall FastBridge screening from 68% in reading to 72% in reading; and from 84% in math to 85% in math by August 2026.

Fall FastBridge screening • Percentage at low risk

Measure	2024-25	2025-26	Fall 2026
Early Reading	68%	73%	70%
Early Math	84%	87%	85%

Goal Status: Partially Met

#2: Achievement Gaps

Target:
Reduce the achievement gap in Reading and Math between:

- Non-white and white students
- Students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) and those not receiving FRL

… by at least 5% per year for 5 consecutive years, measured by FastBridge (winter-to-winter).

Goal Status: Partially Met

	Measure: Winter FastBridge	Prior Gap	Current Gap
Reading	Grades K–1; Racial	26	15
	Grades K–1; Income	20	21
	Grades 2–12; Racial	32	16
	Grades 2–12; Income	26	28
Math	Grades K–1; Racial	22	19
	Grades K–1; Income	25	25
	Grades 2–12; Racial	27	27
	Grades 2–12; Income	31	32

Understanding the Gaps

Where gaps narrowed

- K–1 reading: non-white students increased from 48% to 53%; white students decreased from 74% to 68%.
- K–1 math: both racial groups declined.

Where gaps persisted/widened

- Grades 2–12 reading: lower-income students remained at 46% while non-FRL students increased to 74%.
- Grades 2–12 math: both income groups declined; the gap widened.

#3: College and Career Readiness

Target:
Increase student credits earned in advanced coursework, concurrent enrollment, work-based learning and internships by 3% per year for 5 consecutive years, measured by student transcript data.

Credits earned by course type	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Advanced coursework (Enriched, AP, PLTW)	3,330 credits	2473 credits	TBD
Concurrent enrollment (CIS, CE)	1,016 credits	2350 credits	TBD
PSEO	1,198 credits	1195 credits	TBD
Work-based learning and internships	45 credits	52 credits	TBD
Total	**5,589**	**6,070 (Δ+8.6%)**	**TBD**

Goal Status: Partially Met

#4: All Students Graduate

Target:

Maintain the four-year graduation rate at Stillwater Area High School at 95%;

Increase the five-year graduation rate at St. Croix Valley Alternative Learning Center (ALC) to 73% by June 2026;

Increase the seven-year graduation rate at St. Croix Valley Alternative Learning Center (ALC) to 82% by June 2026

Goal Status: Partially Met

	Graduation Rate	2023	2024	2025
Stillwater Area High School	4-year	94.6%	95.2%	96.1%
St Croix Valley Area Learning Center	5-year	65.9%	70.2%	85.7%
	7-year	75.6%	80.0%	66.7%

#5: Lifelong Learners

THIRD YEAR OF NEW GOAL AREA

Proposed Target:

1. **Early Learning Readiness:** Increasing kindergarten readiness by improving fall FastBridge screening results annually, to 80% in reading and 85% in math.
2. **Equity in Achievement:** Closing the reading and math achievement gaps between non-white and white students, and between FRL and non-FRL students, to 10 percentage point gap, based on winter-to-winter FastBridge assessments**.**
3. **Expanded Learning Opportunities:** Increasing the number of credits earned in advanced coursework, concurrent enrollment, and work-based learning by 15%, measured via transcript audits.
4. **On-Time Graduation & Persistence:**
   - Maintain a four-year graduation rate of ≥95% at SAHS
   - Increase the five-year graduation rate at ALC toward 73%.
   - Increase the seven-year graduation rate at ALC toward 82%.

Progress in these four goal areas will be used as indicators of students' preparedness to be lifelong learners - academically capable, socially engaged, and future-ready.

Part 2 | MCA Results

A closer look at student learning in reading, mathematics and science

How To Read MCA Results

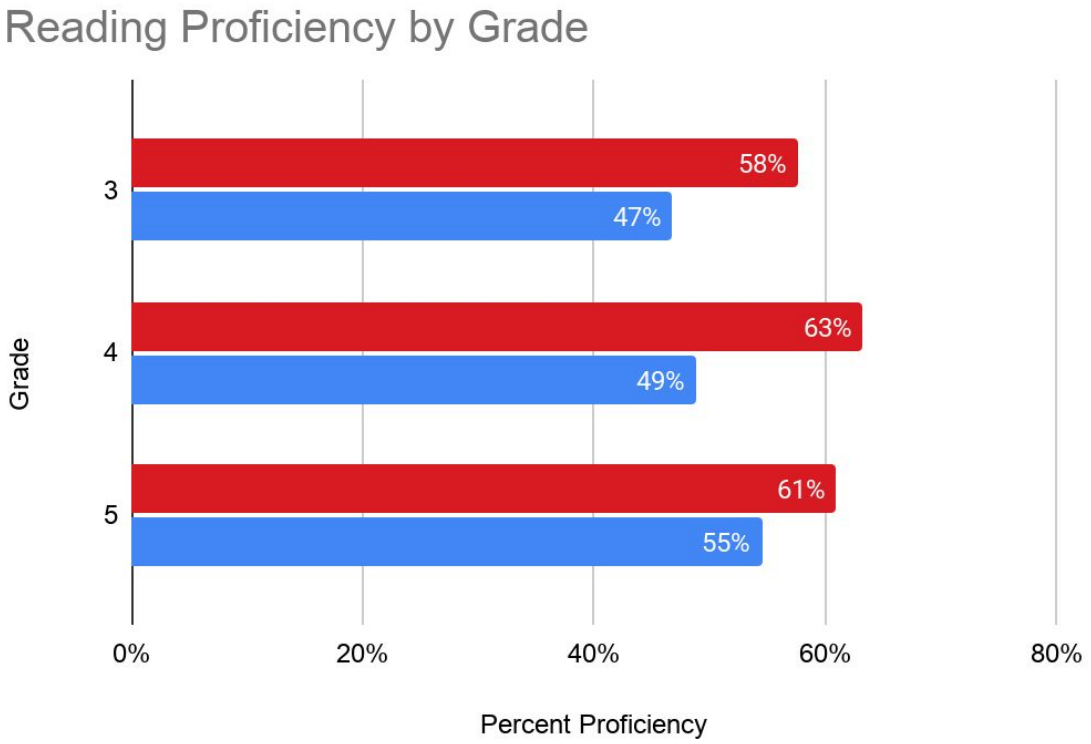
- Reading MCA-IV began in 2025–26; results establish a new baseline
- Science MCA-IV began in 2024–25
- Mathematics changes coming in 2027–28
- State comparisons provide context, not the sole measure of success
- MCA results should be considered alongside FastBridge and classroom evidence



Three Findings from MCAs

1. Stillwater performs above statewide proficiency in the tested subjects
2. Achievement varies substantially by grade, school and student group
3. Too many students remain below proficiency, particularly in science

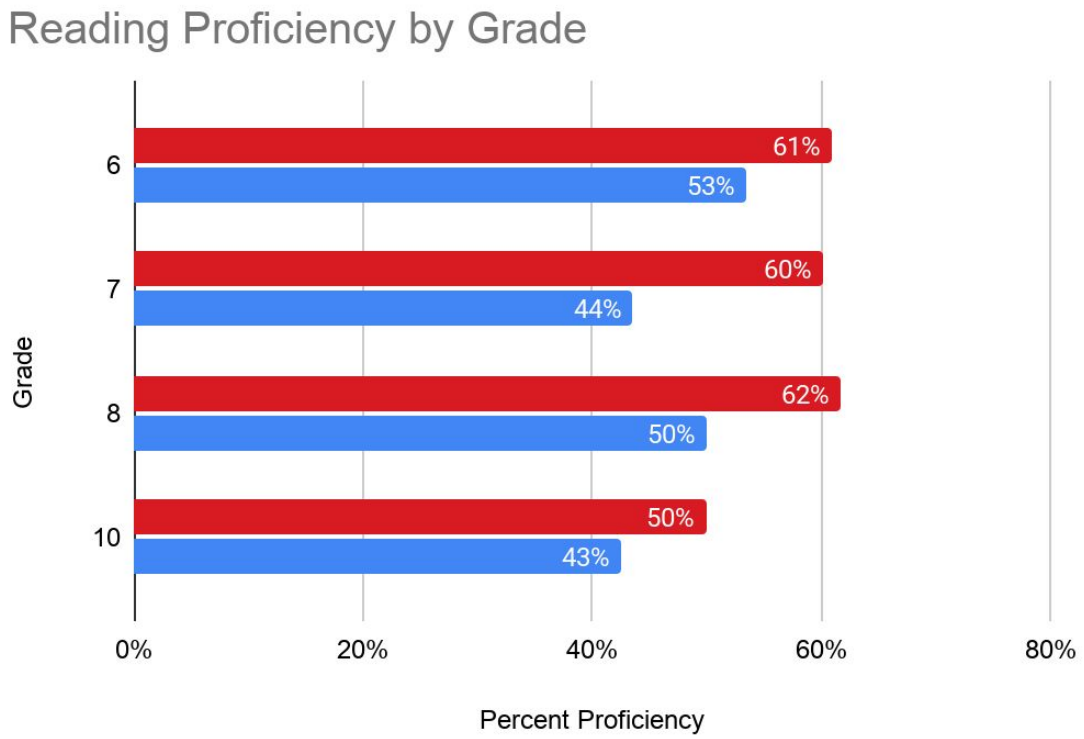
MCA Reading By Grade



Districtwide reading proficiency = 59%

Because this is a new assessment, prior MCA-III reading results are not directly comparable

MCA Reading By Grade



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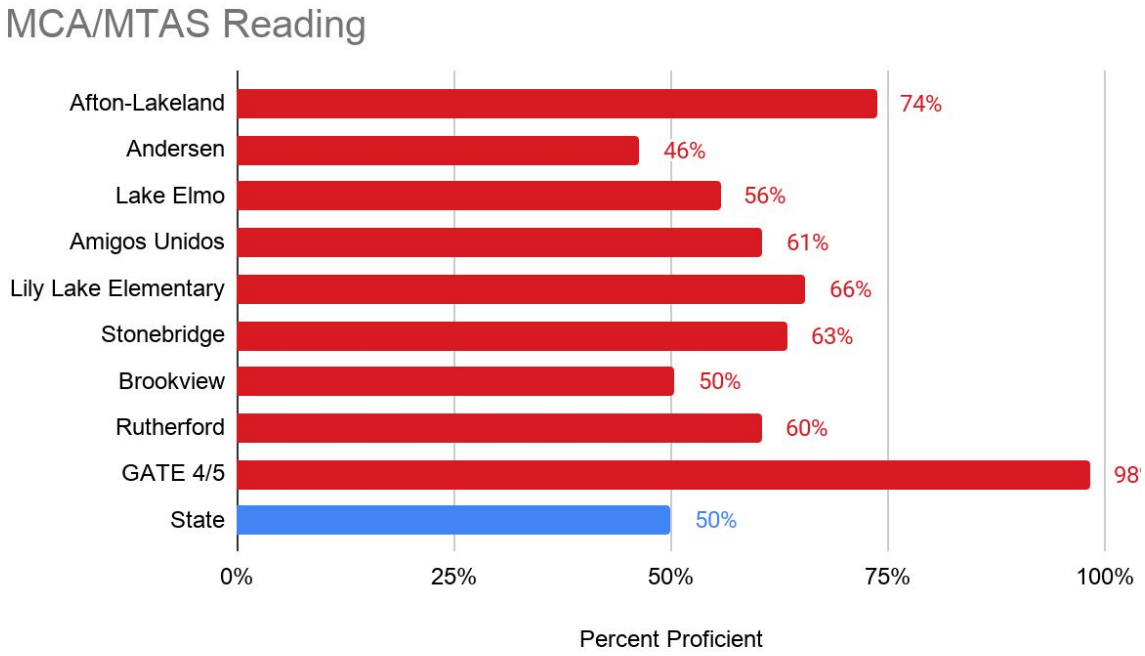
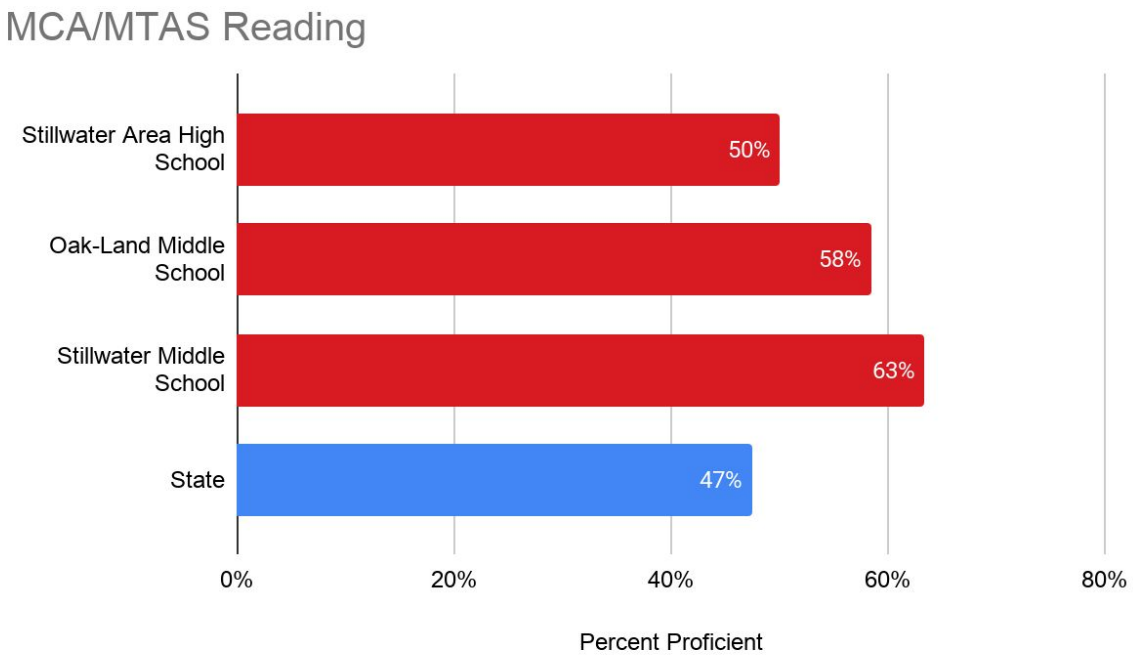
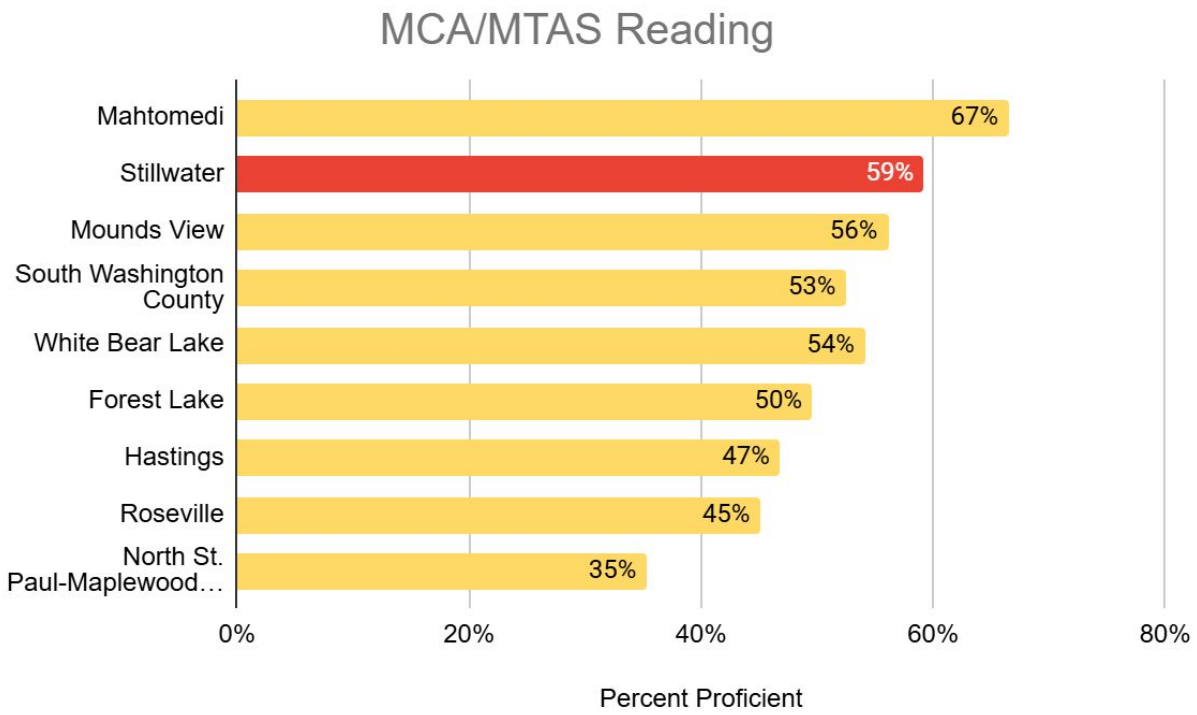
MCA Reading By School



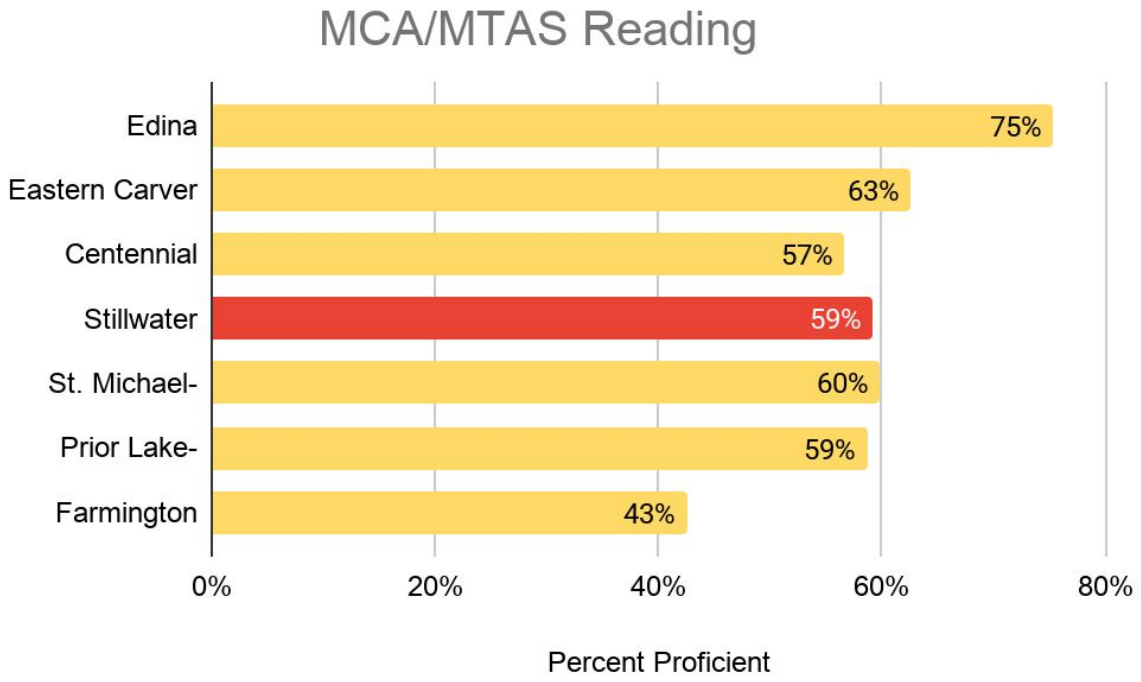
MCA Reading By School



MCA Reading Comparison East Metro



MCA Reading Comparison Like Districts



MCA Reading Key Points

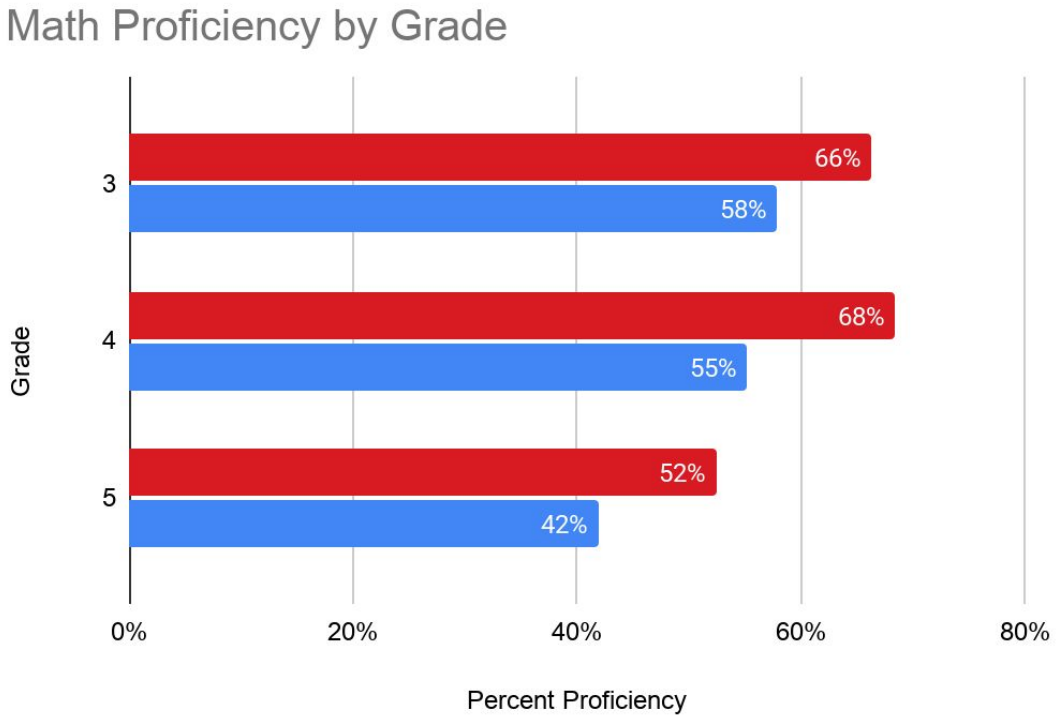
What the data show

- Significant variation by schools and grade bands
- Persistent achievement gaps exist between student groups, with the starkest gaps by family income level and race

Instructional implication

- Performance reflects Stillwater's engagement with the new standards and benchmarks, and the new exam

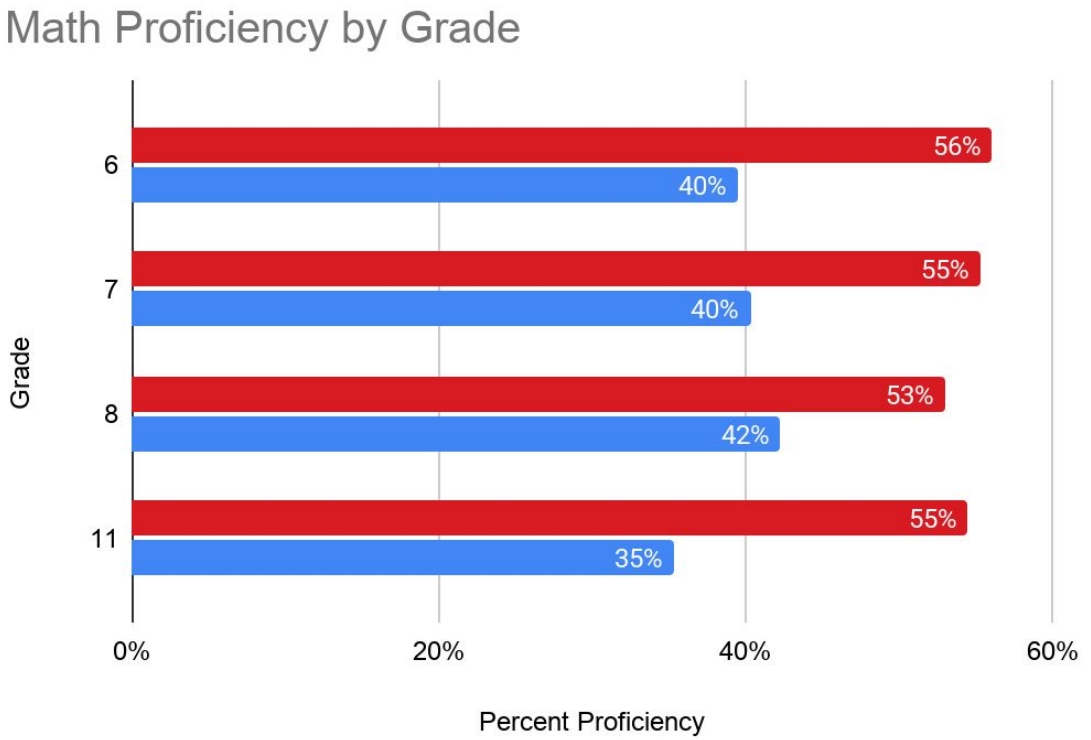
MCA Math By Grade



Districtwide math proficiency: 58%

Grade 5 is a priority for examining standards alignment, student work and readiness for middle school mathematics

MCA Math By Grade



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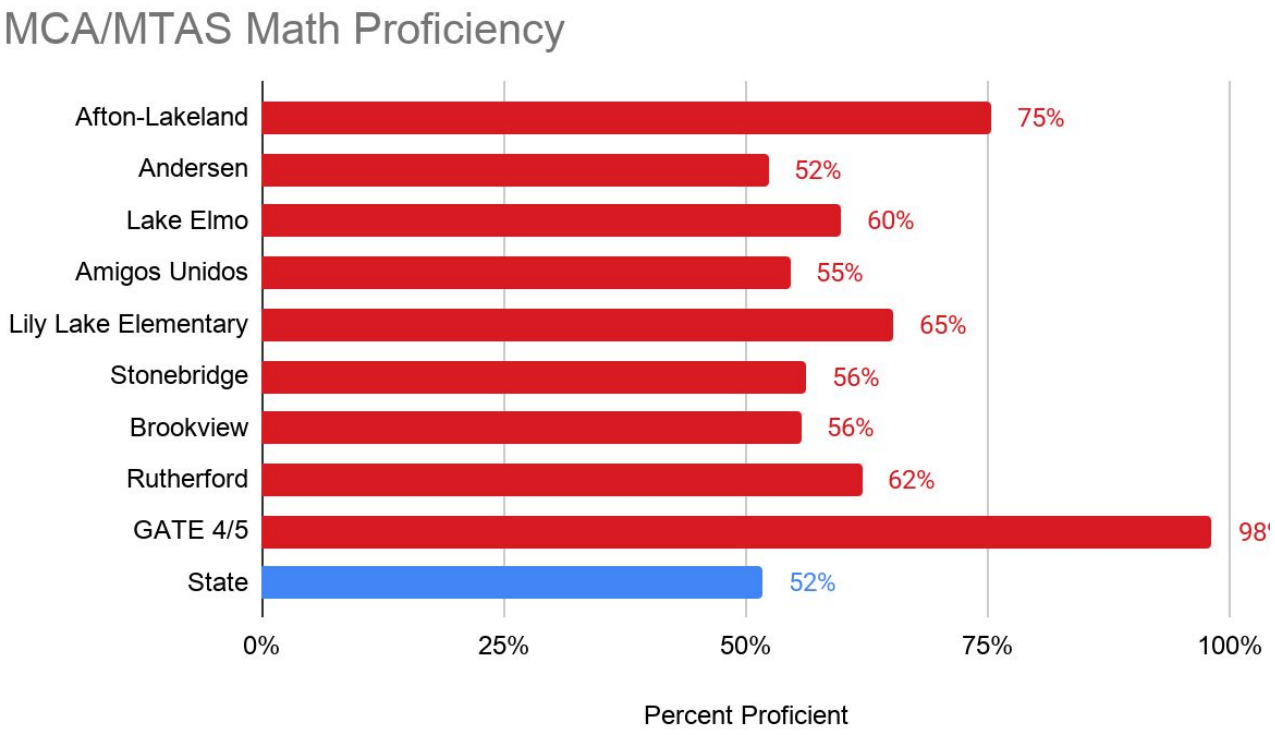
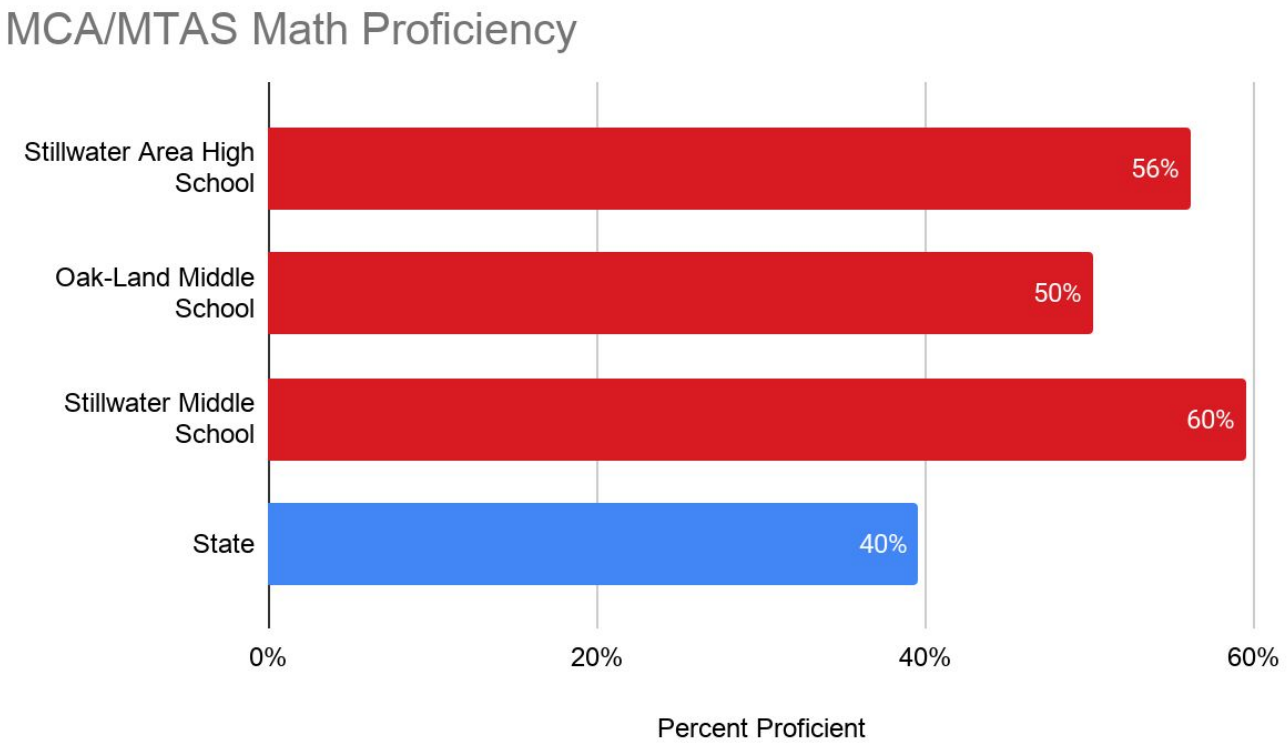
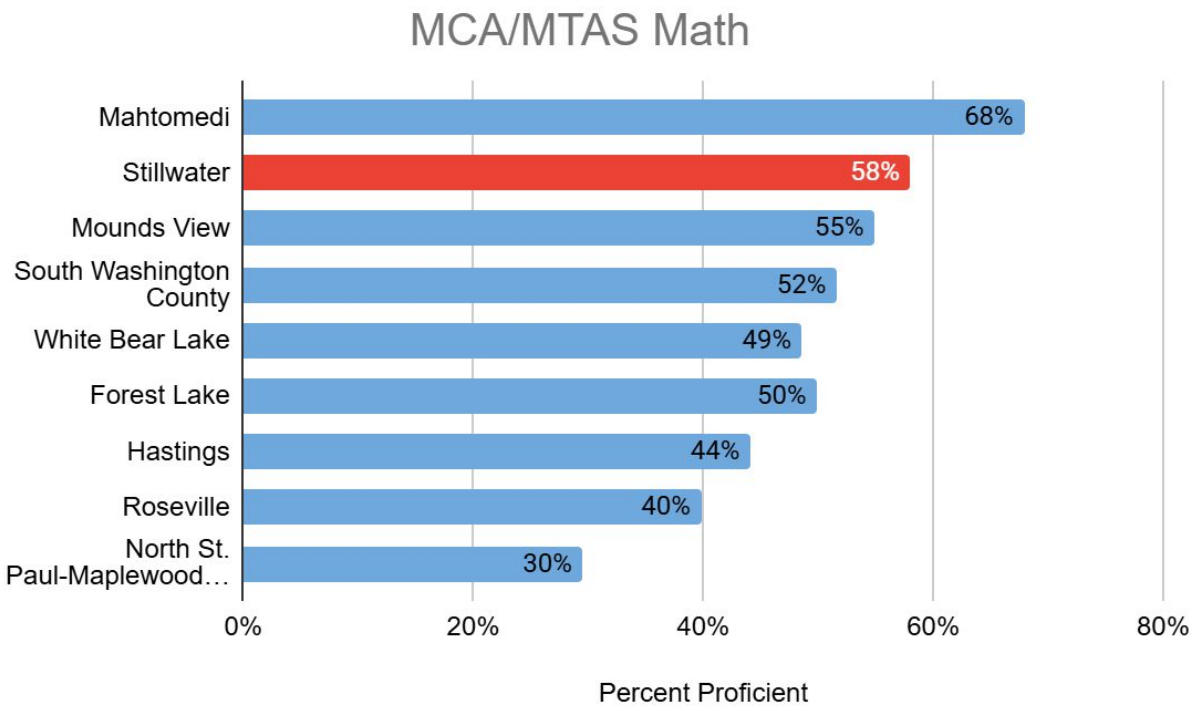
MCA Math By School



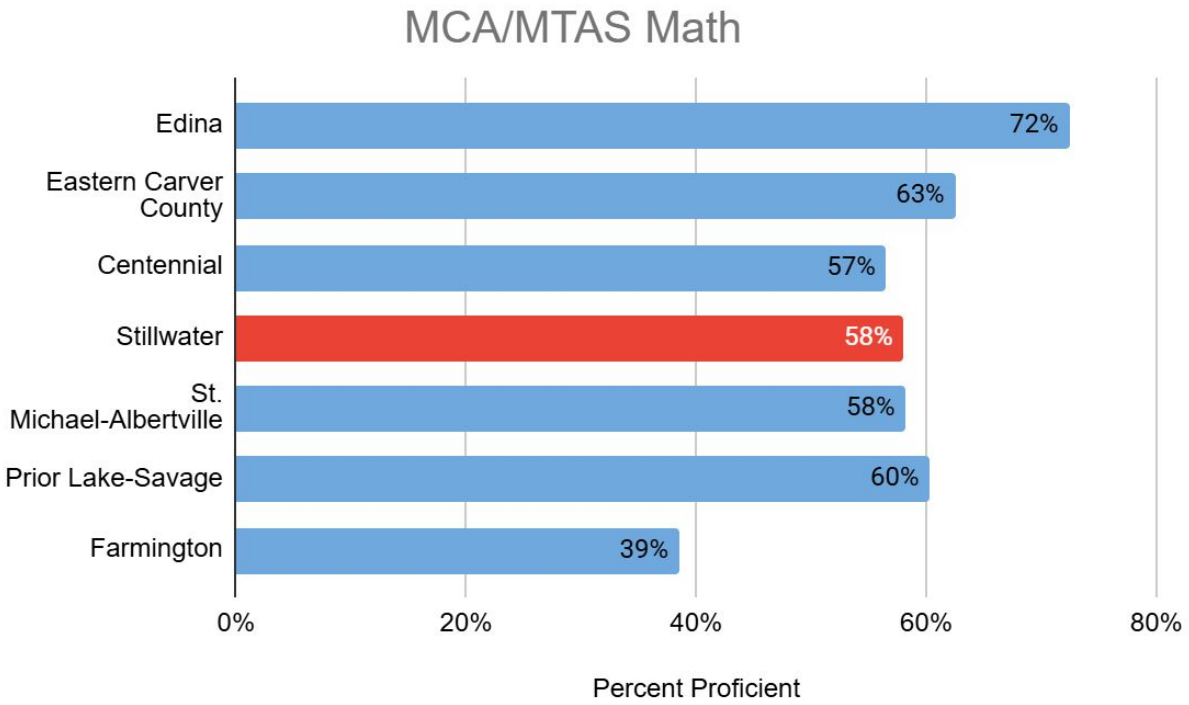
MCA Math By School



MCA Math East Metro Districts



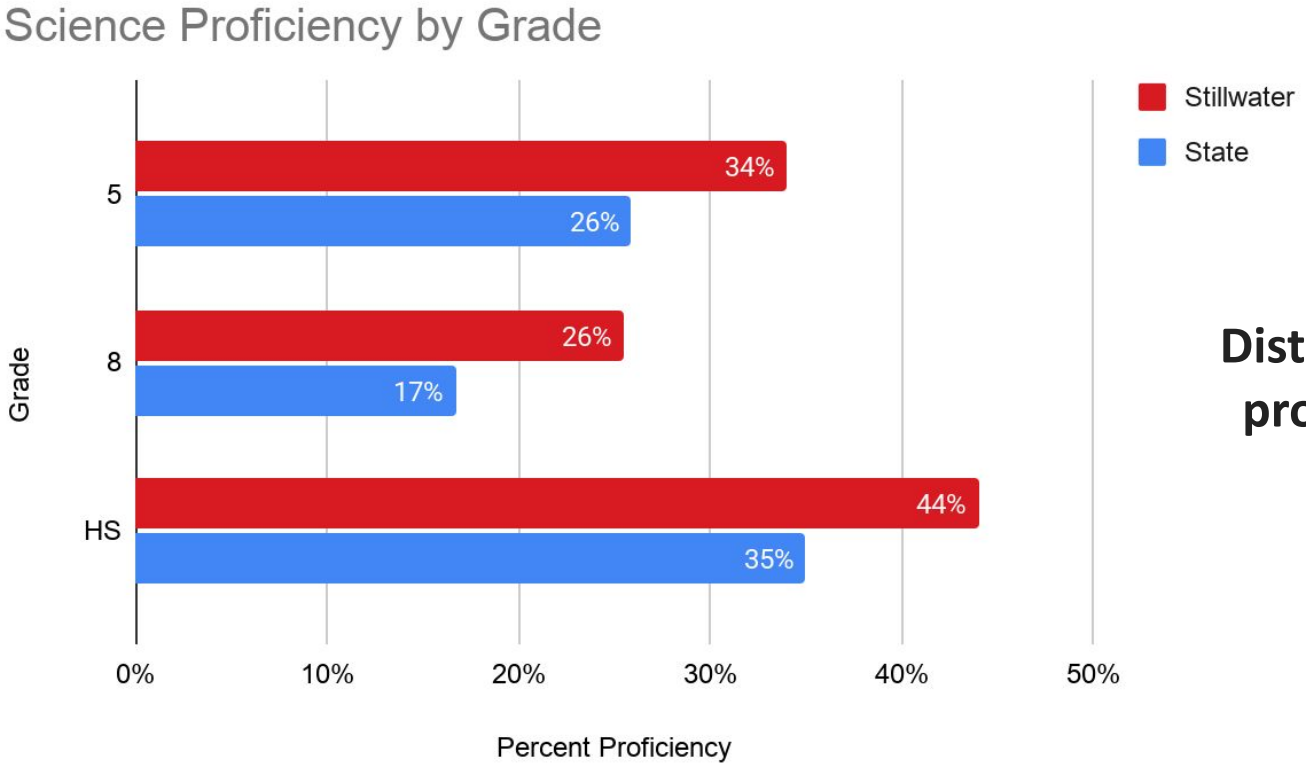
MCA Math Comparison Districts



MCA Math Key Points

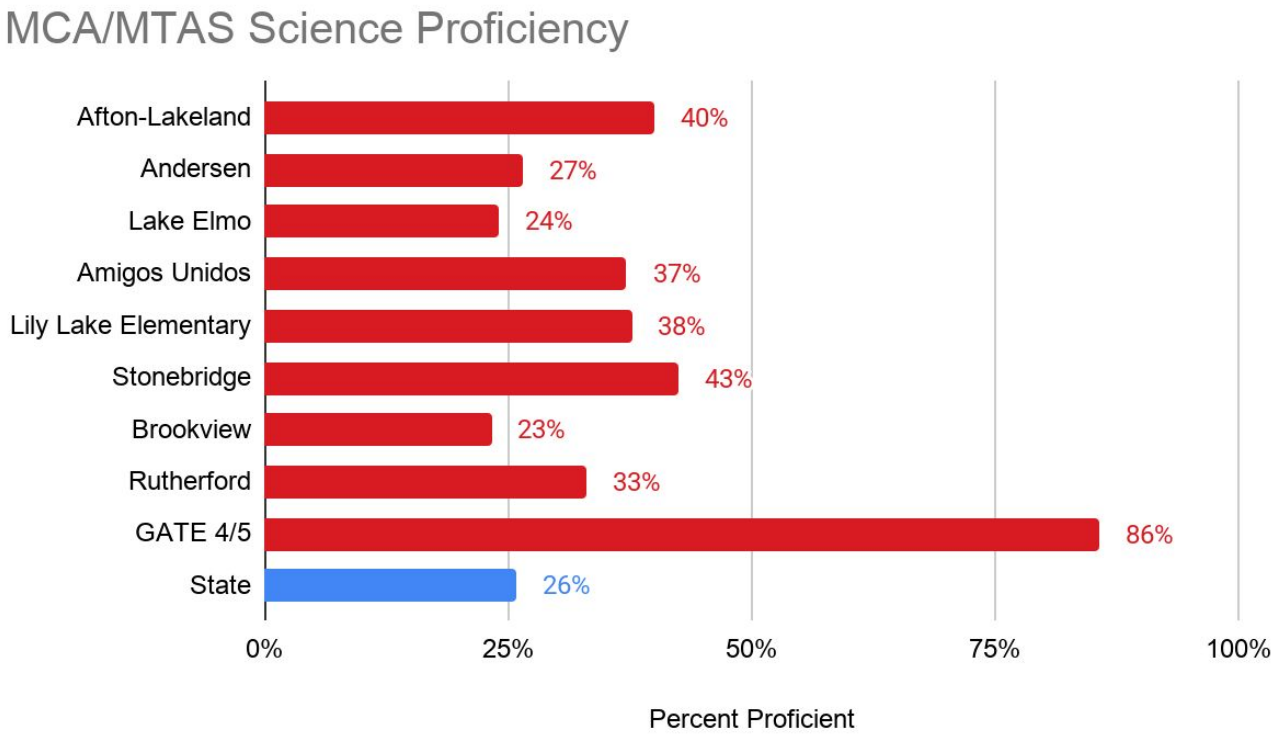
- Stillwater's MCA and MTAS scores exceed the state average across grade levels in math
- Stillwater's scores have improved since 2022 in math, with growth across grade levels -- particular growth at the HS in 2026 and sustained growth in grade 5
- Significant variation by schools
- Persistent achievement gaps exist between student groups, with the starkest gaps by family income level and race

MCA Science By Grade

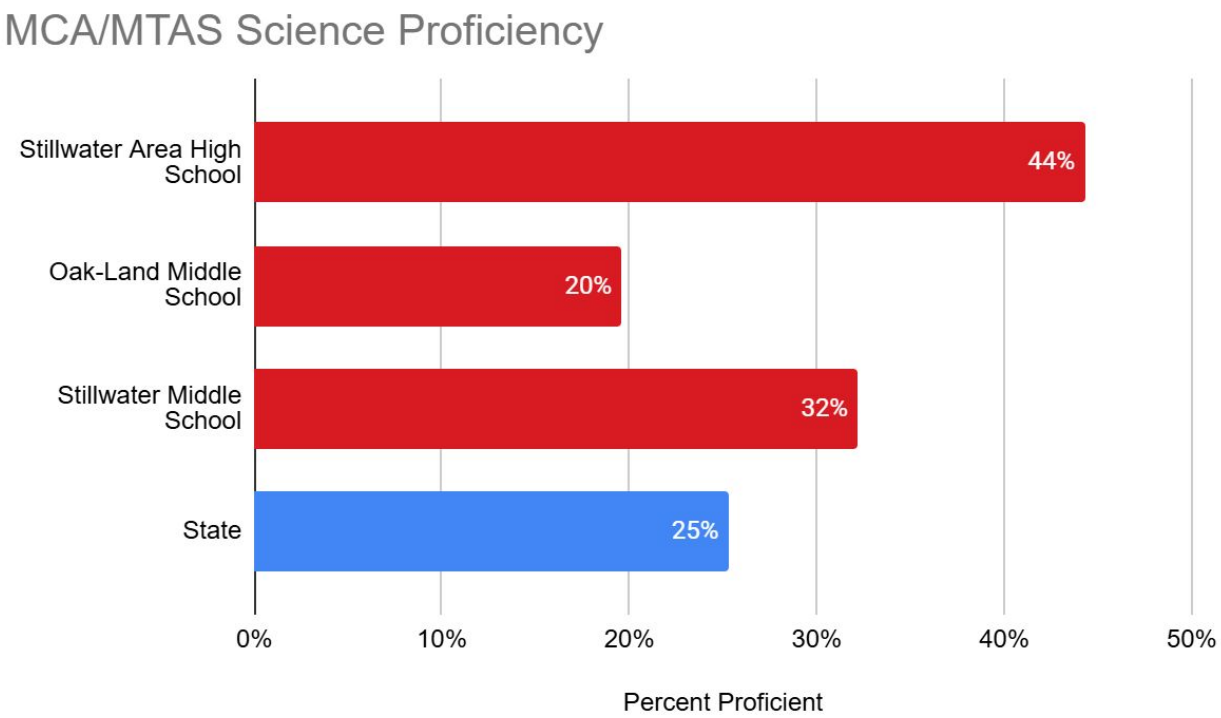


Districtwide science proficiency is 34%

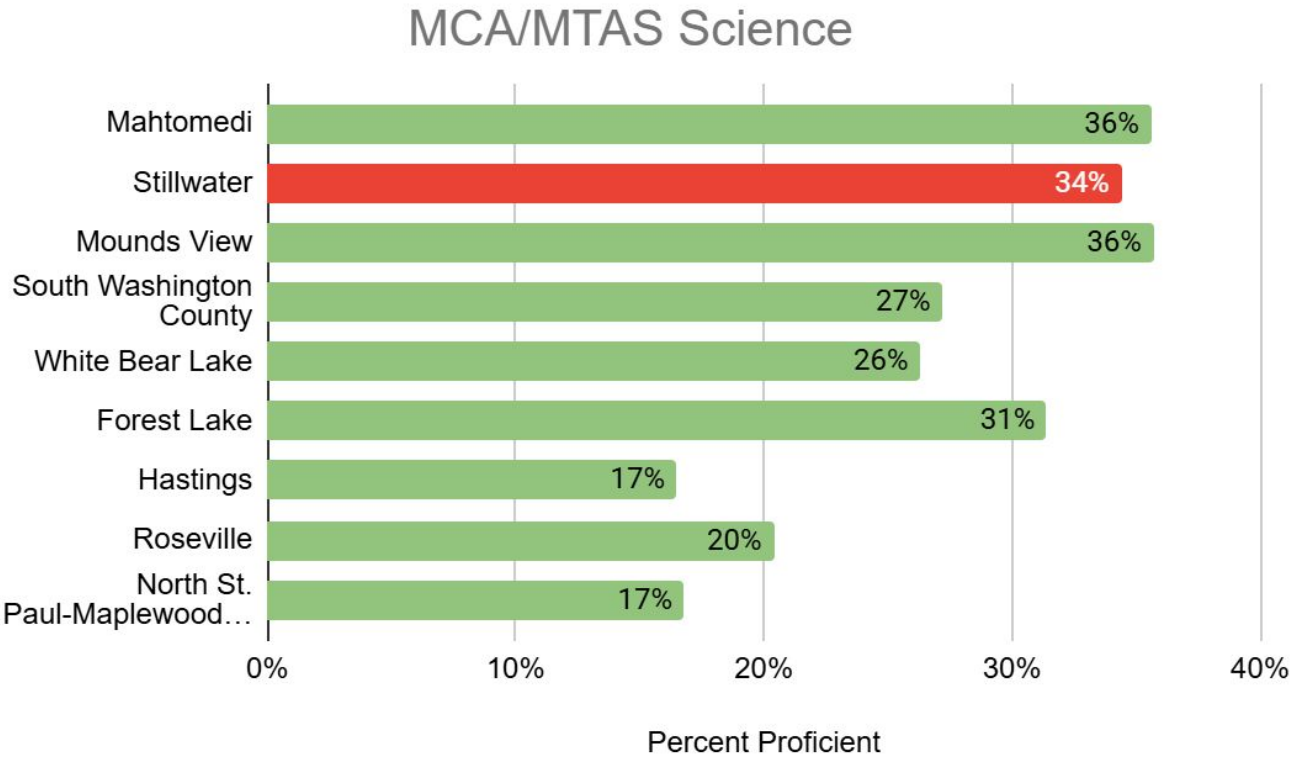
MCA Science By School



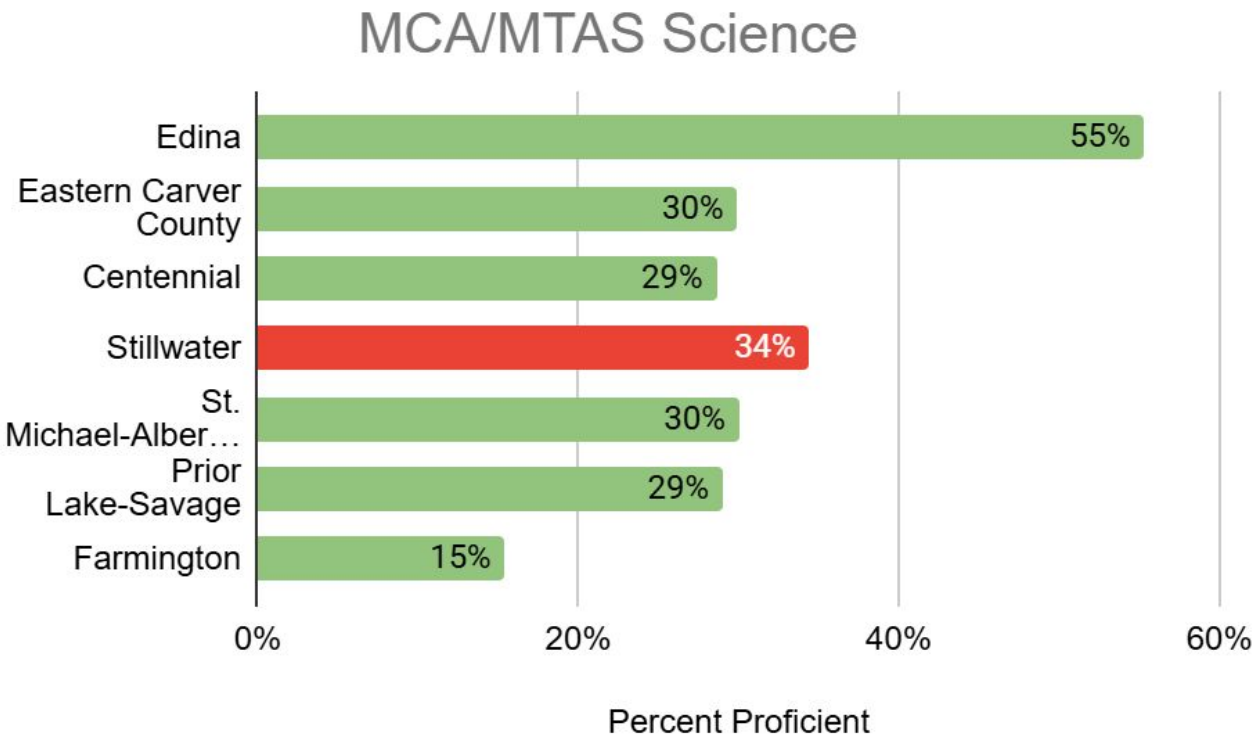
MCA Science By School



MCA Science Comparison East Metro



MCA Science Comparison Like District



MCA Science Key Points

- Stillwater's MCA and MTAS scores exceed the state average across grade levels in science
- Statewide achievement levels reflect amount of work to be done to meet the rigor of the new benchmarks
- Significant variation by schools and grade bands
- Persistent achievement gaps exist between student groups, with the starkest gaps by family income level and race

Next Steps

- Continue to monitor literacy implementation
- Evaluate math pilot for future curriculum adoption
- Address variation across schools and grade bands
- Use school-level data for improvement planning

Questions